

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business within which Senators may be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY CAPTAIN DENNIS L. PINTOR

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on October 11, 2004, the Lima, OH, newspaper received an e-mail that said the following:

Greetings, My name is Captain Dennis Pintor . . . I was born and raised in Lima and lived there until I enlisted in the Army in 1992. I am currently requesting the help of the citizens of Lima to assist in our efforts here in Baghdad. School here has just begun session and many of the students need supplies . . . I tell you it makes a difference in the kids and my soldiers. I appreciate any assistance . . . the people of Lima can offer. Respectfully—Captain Dennis Pintor.

Tragically, that same newspaper reported the captain's death just a few days later. He was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol vehicle in Baghdad.

At the news of his death, family friend Lillian Abelita remembered that Dennis was "one of a kind" and that he touched thousands of lives. She noted that Dennis's "last wish was for the Iraqi children." "It wasn't even for himself," she said. The focus of his life had always been giving all that he had for others.

Dennis Pintor was born and raised in Lima by loving parents, Bert and Ellen Pintor. He was the big brother whom siblings Bob, Sara, and Diana looked up to.

Dennis attended Elida High School, where he belonged to several teams and clubs. He played soccer and tennis, was on the yearbook staff, and started the Red Knees Club for his fellow basketball players who didn't get much playing time. John Hullinger, a teammate, remembered that "Dennis was not one to complain about sitting on the bench. He made the most of it and had fun with it."

Dennis made the most of everything, including his academic studies. Dennis wanted to learn. Alan Chum, a guidance counselor at Elida High School, had Dennis in several math classes. He recalled that Dennis was an "inquisitive" student who would "bring an energy that kept the class going."

Teachers wanted Dennis in their classrooms. Allen emphasized that "[Dennis] had a knack for being able to answer questions and ask good, appropriate questions. He was just a good kid—great to have in class."

Dennis excelled academically and earned an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he trained to be an engineer. He graduated in 1998 and then went on to complete Army Ranger School. Dennis quickly became a well-respected superior who was known for putting his men first.

Dennis served as a peacekeeper in Kosovo—an assignment that suited his desire to help those who needed it most. In 2002, Dennis was assigned as Company Commander of Bravo Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, based in Fort Hood, TX.

Dennis was Army through and through. One of Ellen Pintor's favorite memories of her son is when he would visit her classroom at North Middle School on Veterans Day. He would playfully give the kids orders and assign platoon leaders. Dennis would order the kids to stand in line and if they wouldn't do what he said quickly enough, he would command: "Drop and give me five!" Simultaneously, Dennis would drop to the floor and do push-ups with the kids.

While he was in the Army, Dennis was lucky enough to meet the love of his life—Stacy—and married her in 2000. The two were meant for each other. Stacy called her husband, "a glimpse of heaven." She said that "it was love that struck our souls. Individually we were strong, but together we were powerful." They were blessed with a baby girl, whom they named Rhea.

Being together with his wife and daughter was so very important to Dennis. However, he also felt a great sense of duty to his fellow soldiers and to his Nation. His unit was called for deployment to Iraq in March 2004. Although it was difficult to leave his family, Dennis had a job to do. While overseas, Dennis was in charge of rebuilding and securing the safety of several schools in Baghdad. Dennis realized that Iraqi children needed help—and they needed supplies. He enlisted the help of those in his hometown of Lima to give what they could. As he had so many times before, Dennis had the needs of others foremost in his mind.

CPT Jay Wisham, a member of Dennis's unit, noted that he was not surprised Dennis was trying to secure school supplies for the Iraqi children. He said this about Dennis:

He was just a very good guy all the way around. He firmly believed in what we were doing over there. All he wanted to do was make things better for whomever's life he touched.

Indeed, Dennis touched many lives.

After his service, Dennis wanted to return to West Point as a professor. David Garrison said this about his nephew:

[Dennis] refused to take the easy way through life. As an officer, he was determined to receive all the tough training. Unfortunately, America's future cadets will never have the opportunity to learn what this West Point hero might have taught.

Although Dennis will never teach those West Point cadets in the class-

room, he will teach them through his legacy. He will teach them through the love he had for his family and through the lives of those Iraqi children, who now have the opportunity to go to school.

At the memorial service following Dennis's death, his uncle David explained that "was loved so strongly by so many because he loved so selflessly." The Reverend Henry Sattler, who married Dennis and Stacy, noted that Dennis "knew in the career he'd chosen that he may be asked to lay down his life for his friends . . . and he said yes."

CPT Dennis Pintor was a selfless man. Thanks to his efforts, more than 30 boxes of school supplies were sent to Iraq.

Thanks to his efforts, hundreds of Iraqi children have a chance for a better life.

Thanks to his efforts, the Iraqi people have a chance for freedom.

My wife Fran and I keep Dennis's wife and daughter and his parents and siblings in our thoughts and in our prayers.

ARMY SERGEANT BENJAMIN BISKIE

Mr. President, today I remember and pay tribute to a young man from Vermillion, OH, who gave his life for our freedom and for the freedom of the people of Iraq.

Army Sgt Benjamin Biskie gave the ultimate sacrifice—his last true measure of devotion—on Christmas Eve, 2003. His vehicle struck an improvised explosive device near Samarra, Iraq. He was 27 years old.

Ben was born and raised in Arizona with his two sisters, Andrea and Darlene. He attended Tucson Junior Academy until he moved with his mother, Della, to Ohio in 1993. There, he graduated from Vermillion High School one year later. Following graduation, Ben enlisted in the Army, but not before he met his future wife, Marcie, that summer while working at Cedar Point amusement park. The two quickly fell in love and were married.

Although Ben was proud to serve in the U.S. Army, his crowning achievement was the birth of his son Benjamin, Jr. Ben's Army comrades remember how he constantly told stories about his son.

Ben trained at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, where he, Marcie, and Ben, Jr. made their home. Ben, Sr. would eventually serve one year in South Korea before he was sent to the Middle East.

Though Ben did not want to leave his young family, he did not hesitate when he and the rest of the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade were called to serve in Iraq in April 2003. The men of the "Fighting Fifth" were attached to the 4th Infantry Division and were tasked with laying roads and bridges for the Division's advancement. Following the successful completion of that mission, Ben and the rest of the Battalion aided the reconstruction efforts in Iraq.